



# FACT SHEET

## Module 18

## Tire Inspection

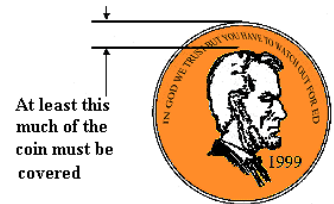
The tire tread provides the gripping action and traction that prevents your vehicle from slipping and sliding, especially when the road is wet or icy. Tires have built-in tread wear indicators that let you know when it is time to replace your tires. These indicators are raised sections spaced intermittently in the bottom of the tread grooves. When they appear "even" with the outside of the tread, it is time to replace your tires.

### Inspect your tires and check the air pressure once a month

Tires are where the rubber meets the road, so to speak, and tires should be the best you can afford. A blowout at high speed will provide convincing proof if you need it.

### There should be 3/32 inch of tread to be legal and safe

Place a penny in the tread. If the top of Abe's head isn't covered, replace the tire. While it's true that the performance of a tire with a lot of miles and a thin, but legal tread is just as good as a brand new tire on dry pavement, wet pavement is another story. Thin treads can't shed water as rapidly so slow down or you might hydroplane your vehicle.



### Tire wear should be even across the tread

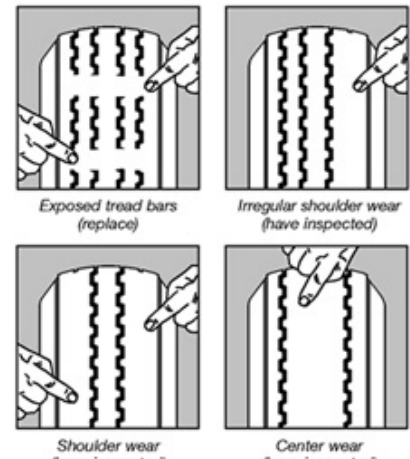
- More wear on one edge indicates misalignment
- More wear on both edges indicates under-inflation
- More wear in the center than the edges indicates over-inflation
- Stripes across the width of the tread indicates the tire is worn out and must be replaced
- This wear indicator is molded right into the tire

It's impossible to tell whether a radial is low on air pressure. It's tough to tell what the pressure is by their appearance, too. The air pressure should be measured with a gauge and should be seasonally adjusted. (Don't use the indicator on the air pump at the filling station to measure pressure—these are often inaccurate.) As the weather gets colder, the pressure will go down considerably, and the opposite happens when it gets warmer. Measure the pressure when the tires are cold. That is, you shouldn't have driven more than a mile or two before measuring.

This Web site is an interactive site that shows tire inflation:

<http://www.tiresafety.com/index.asp?ver=saf>

### Check for obvious signs of wear.



Graphic Source: Bridgestone Tires